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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 04684 100902Z

14-12
ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 OES-03 ABF-01 FS-01 EUR-12 /035 W
---------- 089423
R 100825Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3866
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

ROME FOR GORDON

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, EG
SUBJECT: USDA/SFCP-FY 1975 SFCP SCIENCE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 82839

1. EMBASSY REGRETS DELAY IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL. FOR FIRST TIME MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFERRED SUPPLEMENTARY PROJECTS TO QUOTE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UNQUOTE FOR APPROVAL. UNFORTUNATELY, MFA SELECTED WRONG GOE AGENCY TO WHICH TO SEND USDA FY 75 PROGRAM AMENDMENTS, CHOOSING NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTEAD OF MIN AGRICULTURE. MIN AGRICULTURE, AT OUR REQUEST, HAS INTERVENED AND WE NOW HAVE VERBAL GO-AHEAD FOR PROJECTS. USDA SHOULD COMMENCE FINAL PREPARATIOS THEREFORE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. COMMENT: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN MFA NORTH AMERICAN DEPT ARE TAKING PLACE THIS SUMMER: RESULT IS THAT THOSE FAMILIAR WITH INFORMAL PROCESS OF GRANT PROGRAM APPROVAL ARE DEPARTING, LEAVING OTHER MORE CAUTIOUS BUREAUCRATS WHO ARE NOT WILLING TO TAKE INDEPENDENT ACTION. WE AGAIN POINTED OUT TO NEW MFA PERSON-NEL THAT, IN GENERAL, MOST PROJECTS ARE ONLY IN DISCUSSSION STAGE WHEN PRESENTED AND SO WHAT IS NEEDED IS GENERAL GO-AHEAD TO DEVELOP PROPOSAL, WITH SCIENTIFIC JUSTICIATIONS LEFT TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES RECEIVING GRANTS. WE ALSO POINTED OUT NEED FOR TIMELY
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 04684 100902Z

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS NOW AT END OF FISCAL YEAR SO THAT FUNDS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

WHICH NEED TO BE OBLIGATED WILL NOT BE LOST.

3. GRANT APPROVAL PROCESS OBVIOUSLY STILL VERY UNCLEAR. MFA BUREAUCRATS APPEAR UNWILLING TO GO BACK TO FOREIGN MINISTER TO CLARIFY SITUATION AND SO WE ARE ESSENTIALLY OPERATING ON VERY LOOSE ORGANIZATION, WHICH SUITS PROGRAM BUT OCCASIONALLY RESULTS IN SNAGS AS DESCRIBED PARA 1. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME ANY IDEAS WHICH PARTICIPATING GRANTOR AGENCIES MIGHT HAVE ON HOW WE MIGHT IMPROVE PROCESS. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT IS BEST POINT AT WHICH WE SHOULD PRESENT PROJECTS FOR APPROVAL. AS SEEN FROM HERE, ANNUAL COMPILATION OF PLANNED PROJECTS MIGHT STILL BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED INFORMALLY RPT INFORMALLY FOLLOWING SPRING MEETING OF JWG IN WASHINGTON, BUT MFA WOULD BE ASKED TO APPROVE ONLY THOSE GRANTS READY FOR SIGNATURE.
EILTS

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